

REMARKS

Applicants concurrently file herewith an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter, and corresponding excess claim fee, for one (1) excess independent claim.

Claims 1-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 7-9 have been merely editorially amended and have not been substantively amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 13-20 have been added to claim additional features of the invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-12 are allowed. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Murray, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,699) (hereinafter "Murray").

This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention (e.g., as defined by exemplary claim 1) is directed to a foldable electronic device. The electronic device includes a first body having a display covered by a screen and a second body having an interface through which a user can operate the electronic device. The first body and the second body are rotatable to each other through a hinge. The first body has a first surface facing the second body when the electronic device is folded. The

second body has a second surface facing the first body when the electronic device is folded. The interface projects by a height from the second surface. The first body includes a recess with the first surface. The recess aligns with the interface when the electronic device is folded, and has a depth equal to or greater than said height. The display and the screen are located within the recess.

In conventional cellular telephones the display and the user interface face each other when the telephone is folded. If the clearance between the display and the interface is not sufficient, the operation keys of the interface will interfere with the display, resulting in damage to the display. It is possible to design the operation keys to be small in height to prevent contact with the display. However, if the height of the operation keys is reduced, it may be difficult for the user to properly operate the telephone.

The claimed invention of exemplary claim 1, on the other hand, provides a foldable electronic device including a first body having a display covered by a screen and a second body having an interface through which a user can operate the electronic device. The display and the screen are located within a recess formed in the first body (e.g., see Application at Figure 4 and page 4, lines 12-21). This allows the display and the interface to be sufficiently spaced apart to avoid interference with each other while continuing to enable a user to sufficiently compress operation keys to operate the electronic device (see Application at page 4, lines 6-10).

II. THE PRIOR ART REFERENCE

The Examiner alleges that Murray teaches the claimed invention of claims 1 and 2. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that there are features of the claimed invention that are neither taught nor suggested by the claimed invention.

That is, Murray does not teach or suggest “*said display and said screen being located within said recess*” (emphasis added by Applicants) as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner relies on features from Figures 1, 4, 7 and 11 of Murray to support his allegations. The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

That is, nowhere in these figures (nor anywhere else for that matter) does Murray teach or suggest that the display and the screen are located within the recess. Indeed, the Examiner does not even allege that Murray teaches or suggests this feature.

The claimed invention, as exemplarily depicted in Figure 4 of the Application, provides a recess (4), wherein the screen (5) and the display (3) are located within the recess (4). This allows the screen (5) and the display (3) of the portable electronic device to be protected from contact with the interface (6) when the electronic device is in a closed position.

In stark contrast, however, Murray merely teaches that the display (346) is fitted in a recess (see Murray at Figure 11). The lens (204), which covers the display (346), is not disposed inside of the recess and is not separated from the operation keys (1110) by the recess.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Murray does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

III. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 13-20 have been added to provide more varied protection for the claimed invention and to claim additional features of the invention. These claims are independently patentable because of the novel features recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 13-20 are patentable over any combination of the applied references at least for analogous reasons to those set forth above with respect to claims 1-2.

IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In accordance with the Examiner's objections, the Specification has been amended. However, regarding the Examiner's objection to the phrase "the display 3 is arranged in the recess 4" as recited on page 10, line 22 of the Specification, Applicants respectfully disagree. That is, Figures 4 and 5 clearly depict the display 3 inside of the recess 4. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

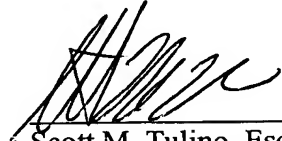
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-20, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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